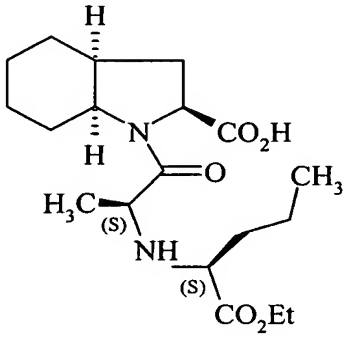
LISTING OF CLAIMS

CLAIMS 1-5 (CANCELED)

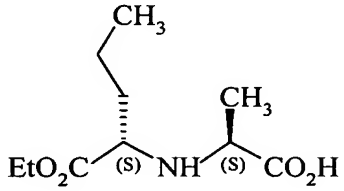
6. (NEW) A process for the synthesis of perindopril of formula (I) :



(I)

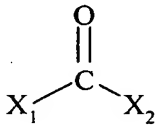
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein a compound of formula (II) :



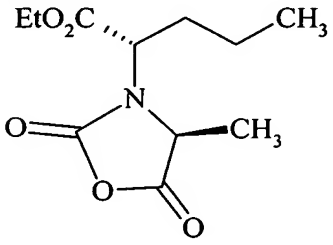
(II)

is reacted with a compound of formula (III) :



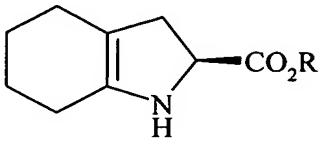
(III)

wherein X_1 and X_2, which may be identical or different, each represent a leaving group, to yield a compound of formula (IV) :



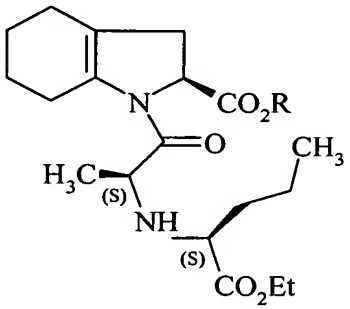
(IV)

which is reacted with a compound of formula (V) :



(V)

wherein R represents hydrogen, benzyl or linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl,
or an addition salt thereof with a mineral or organic acid,
to yield, after isolation, a compound of formula (VI) :



(VI)

which is hydrogenated in the presence of a catalyst,
under a hydrogen pressure of from 1 to 30 bars, to yield, after deprotection of the acid function where necessary, perindopril of formula (I) which is converted, if desired, to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

7. (NEW) The process of Claim 6, wherein the hydrogen pressure in the hydrogenation reaction is from 1 to 10 bars.

8. (NEW) The process of Claim 6, wherein the catalyst is selected from palladium, platinum, rhodium and nickel.

9. (NEW) The process of Claim 6, wherein X_1 and X_2 each represent chlorine, imidazolyl or trichloromethoxy.

10. (NEW) The process of Claim 6 for the synthesis of perindopril in the form of its tert-butylamine salt.